



PROBE Gardai at scene of yesterday's shooting in Ballymun
Picture: COLLINS

Shot in the face.. yards from gardai

A YOUNG man was blasted in the face with a shotgun yesterday as he sat in a pub beside a Garda station. The attack took place while officers were on duty next door in Ballymun station.

The man was drinking in the Towers Pub when the gunman approached and shot him in the face.

Shocked North Dublin punters looked on in horror as the victim was blasted again in the back as he tried to crawl away.

One local woman said: "It just goes to show what they think of the gardai when they are willing to blow someone's head off right in front of a gardai station."

"They just don't care anymore, because they think they'll get away with it. And sure why not?"

"They shot a guy in the head and they were out of here before gardai even arrived."

A Garda spokeswoman added: "The victim was sitting on a stool inside the pub when officers arrived."

The man was taken to the Mater Hospital where he was treated for gunshot wounds to his face and back.

The victim, said to be in his 20s and from the Coolock area of the city, was in a serious condition but his injuries are not said to be life-threatening.

A woman who arrived on the scene said: "There

By DECLAN FERRY

would have been about 300 people in there. The poor chap was in an awful mess. There was blood all over the ground.

"They were definitely out to kill him. You don't shoot someone in the face without wanting to do them serious damage. He's lucky to be alive."

The Garda Forensic Unit were called in to examine the scene yesterday and officers were carrying out door-to-door inquiries in the hope of tracing the attackers.

Ballymun has seen a number of violent attacks in recent months with the stabbing death of James O'Donoghue at a 21st birthday party last month.

Mr O'Donoghue, 26, was killed after a fight broke out at the party and he was stabbed in the heart and the face.

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By MIRROR REPORTER

IRELAND was raging yesterday after Steve Staunton took the national team to one of its worst defeats ever.

The Green Army planned to protest at Dublin Airport last night as the players arrived home following their 5-2 shaming at the hands of Cyprus - a team ranked 103rd in the world.

One fan said: "The previous manager was sacked for having four defeats in 39 games.

"Staunton has had four defeats out of five games. The statistics speak for themselves."

Another said: "FAI Chief John Delaney told us he'd get us a good manager and look what we got instead.

"Not only should Staunton go but so should Delaney for selecting him in the first place."

One raging supporter added: "Any League of Ireland team would have put on a better performance than that. At least they would have been better than these over-pampered Premier League stiffies."

"Many of us spent our entire month's wages travelling to Cyprus to watch the side in action.

"Maybe they should give us our money back. We deserve it."

RTE soccer pundit Eamon Dunphy yesterday slammed Ireland's defeat on Saturday night.

He also claimed Delaney must shoulder some of the blame after he made a "terrible mistake" in appointing Staunton.

The outspoken broadcaster said: "He's going to have to deal with it. They took a gamble on Steve because he had been a wonderful and respected footballer.

"But [managing a team] is an intellectual activity, you do need a brain. And Steve Staunton has never even managed a schoolboy team.

"They're in the area now of looking extremely foolish and embarrassed and the football community here deserves better than this.

"Staunton looks like a man who's bemused and completely out of his depth. His dealings with the players are defensive, a bit paranoid, and he's in bad shape.

"Team motivation comes from respect and if your players respect you, they'll be highly motivated - they'll want to play for their country."

Dunphy also alleged that respected soccer managers would not want the Ireland job after the shambles of Saturday night and said the FAI is at fault.

He added: "No top manager would want to take the job of managing Ireland at the moment.

"They [the FAI] want someone who's cheap and they also want someone who is a compromise.

"But this is a business that last year boasted it turned over €30million so it should be run like a business.

"We're also a very wealthy country. We should go out and get the best manager in Europe, we would not have any problem getting sponsorship for it.

"The FAI are incapable of administering Ireland. It's deeply unfair to the fans. If you go to Lansdowne Road with your two kids, it's going to cost you the best part of an average week's wages.

"If you go abroad to follow the team, the commitment is huge, the cost is great and there's also the buzz people get. People do feel hurt and disappointed."

Dunphy said Wednesday's game against the Czech Republic would be "a car crash" with Stan, 35, in the driving seat.

The TV veteran described Saturday's thumping by Cyprus as a shock but said he had not been surprised - revealing he had even backed Cyprus at 9-1.

He also pointed out that the only other country against which Cyprus had scored five goals was tiny Andorra.

However, the former Millwall player refused to slate the Irish players for their dismal performance.

Dunphy said: "It's not an issue about the players. The issue is the gamble the FAI took in appointing Steve Staunton who had a great career as a player, who is a very respected football person, but he has no experience of management.

"There's a responsibility here to fans, to players and to soccer in this country."

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BAGS PACKED? Republic boss Steve Staunton leaves Cyprus last night

Picture: INPHO/MORGAN TREACY

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- EAMON DUNPHY